



News-Messenger/Andrew Morrison

DAWN ZERMAN of Ross strips the ball from Joy Session of Toledo Central Catholic Thursday night at Northwood.

District last stop for Little Giants

Toledo Central Catholic moves on with a 61-49 semifinal victory

By **BOB MARKER**
Sports Editor

NORTHWOOD — Toledo Central Catholic used control tactics to oust Fremont Ross 61-49 in the Division I district tournament semifinals Thursday night at Northwood High School.

The Irish (21-2) will face Sylvania Southview at 7:30 p.m. Saturday for the district title. Southview defeated St. Ursula 55-51 in the second game on Thursday.

Toledo Central Catholic's tandem of Joy Session and Liz Harris controlled the output of the Little Giants' Dawn Zerman, and Ericka Haney controlled the middle as she scored 26 points and grabbed eight rebounds in front the capacity crowd.

"That is the best I have seen Haney play," Ross coach Sue Wolf said.

The Irish smothering man-to-man defense played havoc with Ross (21-2) all night in the rough-and-tumble contest. Session and Harris made all of Zerman's 20 points tough.

"I don't think we are ever going to stop Dawn," TCC coach Steve Pfahler said. "We had to work on containing her and making things difficult for her."

With 1:53 remaining to play, Zerman suffered an injury to her right knee and did not return.

"They did a great job on her," Wolf said. "They were in her face, but their post people killed us. We just did not match up with them."

The Irish broke away from a 4-4 deadlock in the

first quarter and Ross never led.

Ross closed to 10-8 on Zerman's basket with 2:45 to play in the first quarter, but the Irish led 18-10 after one quarter after Sara Dinges closed the period with a 3-point basket.

The Little Giants never got closer than four, 23-19, the rest of the way.

At halftime, Toledo Central Catholic led 29-21 and took a 44-33 lead into the final quarter. TCC's biggest lead was 59-45 with 1:30 remaining in the game.

"Taking care of the basketball and getting the ball inside was our game plan," Pfahler said.

The game plan was executed nearly flawlessly in the third quarter as Haney, a 6-foot-1 sophomore, scored 10 points. She added six more in the final quarter.

"We were never really out of it," Wolf said, "but we just did not get the rebound we needed and we missed at the free throw line and they made them. Plus they got the rebounds off the free throw line that we could not afford to give up."

The Irish made 18 of 24 foul shots to a 9-of-18 effort at the line by Ross and outrebounded the Little Giants 32-25.

"It was still a great season," Wolf said. "It was nice we had all that support tonight."